

VIDEO PLAYBACK DEVICE CAPABLE OF SHARING RESOURCES
AND METHOD OF OPERATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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There is disclosed a video playback device comprising: 1) a disk storage device for storing television programs received from an external source; 2) a first controller for receiving a first program recording command, wherein the first program recording command is operable to cause the first controller to store a first television program on the disk storage device during a first time slot; and 3) a second controller for determining if sufficient space is available on the disk storage device to store the first television program. The disk storage device, in response to a determination that sufficient space is not available on the disk storage device, identifies in an external communication network a second remote video playback device capable of recording the first television program and transmits a recording task request to the second remote video playback device. The recording task request causes the second remote video playback device to record the first television program during the first time slot.